(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether production work in the plant has been started; and

(d) if not, by when the work will start again?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ K1SHORE TRIPATHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There was a Tire in Visakhapatnam Steel Plant on 29th June*2001. A few number of power and control cables of different sizes were burnt over a length of 40 meters. Estimated loss due to fire is Rs. 9.8 lakhs.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Docs not arise.

Demand and Production of Domestic Steel

† 2396. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the overall domestic demand of steel and the steps taken to meet increasing domestic demand;

(b) the production of steel in the year 1999-2000 in the country and the percentage contributed by public and private sector; and

(c) the total consumption of steel products in the year 1999-2000 in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OFTHE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) The total domestic demand/apparent consumption of steel during 2000-01 has been 26.65 million tonnes (Provisional). The Indian iron and steel industry is fully capable of meeting almost all the requirements of steel in the country barring a few sizes and grades.

(b) The production of steel in the year 1999-2000 was 26.71 million tonnes. The percentage contributed by public and private sector was 42% and 58% respectively.

(c) The total consumption of finished steel during the year 1999-2000 was 25.01 million tonnes.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.